

**HB 543 (2004) - Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act;
Unique identifying numbers limited on public records.**

- ✓ Prohibits filing or creating public records that contain more than the last four digits of any unique identifying number, unless:
 - 1. The use is required by law; or
 - 2. The record is exempt from disclosure.

If the record is subject to a discretionary disclosure, the record must be configured to prevent disclosure of the unique identifying number before it is disclosed to the public.
- ✓ The bill defines unique identifying number as any alphabetic or numeric sequence, or combination thereof, that is:
 - A. unique and
 - B. assigned to a specific natural person
 - C. at that person's request

and includes, but is not limited to, social security number, bank account number, credit card number, military service number and driver's license number.
- ✓ The bill excludes from this definition any arbitrarily assigned alphabetic or numeric sequence, or combination thereof, that is assigned to a natural person for purposes of identification, in lieu of social security numbers, and used for a single, specific government purpose.
 - This provision was designed to enable agencies to use identification numbers in place of social security numbers. However, those numbers must be for a single, specific government purpose such as election identification.
- ✓ Either preparers or filers of such documents must certify that the document complies with this prohibition before the documents can be filed.
 - The means of certification is established by the agency, but can include:
 - Certification at the beginning or end of the document to be filed
 - In lieu of a certification on every document, the public body may post a notice in a conspicuous place at the point of filing stating, "By filing any document with this office, you certify that it complies with the restrictions on unique identifying numbers as specified in § 2.2-3808.3 of the Code of Virginia."
- ✓ The law does not prohibit the collection, use or release of a unique identifying number as required by the laws of the Commonwealth or the United States or for internal verification or administrative purposes as allowed by the laws of the Commonwealth or the United States.
- ✓ The bill was passed with a reenactment clause.